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ABSTRACT

This coloring book showing 31 of New Mexico's wild animals was prepared in conjunction with Project WILD, an environmental and conservation education program for elementary and secondary school students. Each page contains a large line drawing of a wild animal, a brief description of its habitat and behavior, and a range map that indicates the animal's current range within the state. The description of the vagrant shrew is typical of the verbal information provided: "One of the tiniest of all mammals, vagrant shrews live in marshes and meadows. They are fierce little creatures that feed almost nonstop on insects, worms and other small animals." Other animals included in the book are the ringtail, western bluebird, pinon jay, porcupine, abert's squirrel, sandhill crane, desert bighorn sheep, javelina, black bear, black-tailed prairie dog, roadrunner, horned lizard, pronghorn antelope, coyote, little brown bat, black-tailed rattlesnake, elk, raven, mountain lion, burrowing owl, black-tailed jack rabbit, red-tailed hawk, western meadowlark, collared lizard, pintail duck, spotted skunk, wild turkey, lesser prairie chicken, and swift and kit foxes. (JHZ)

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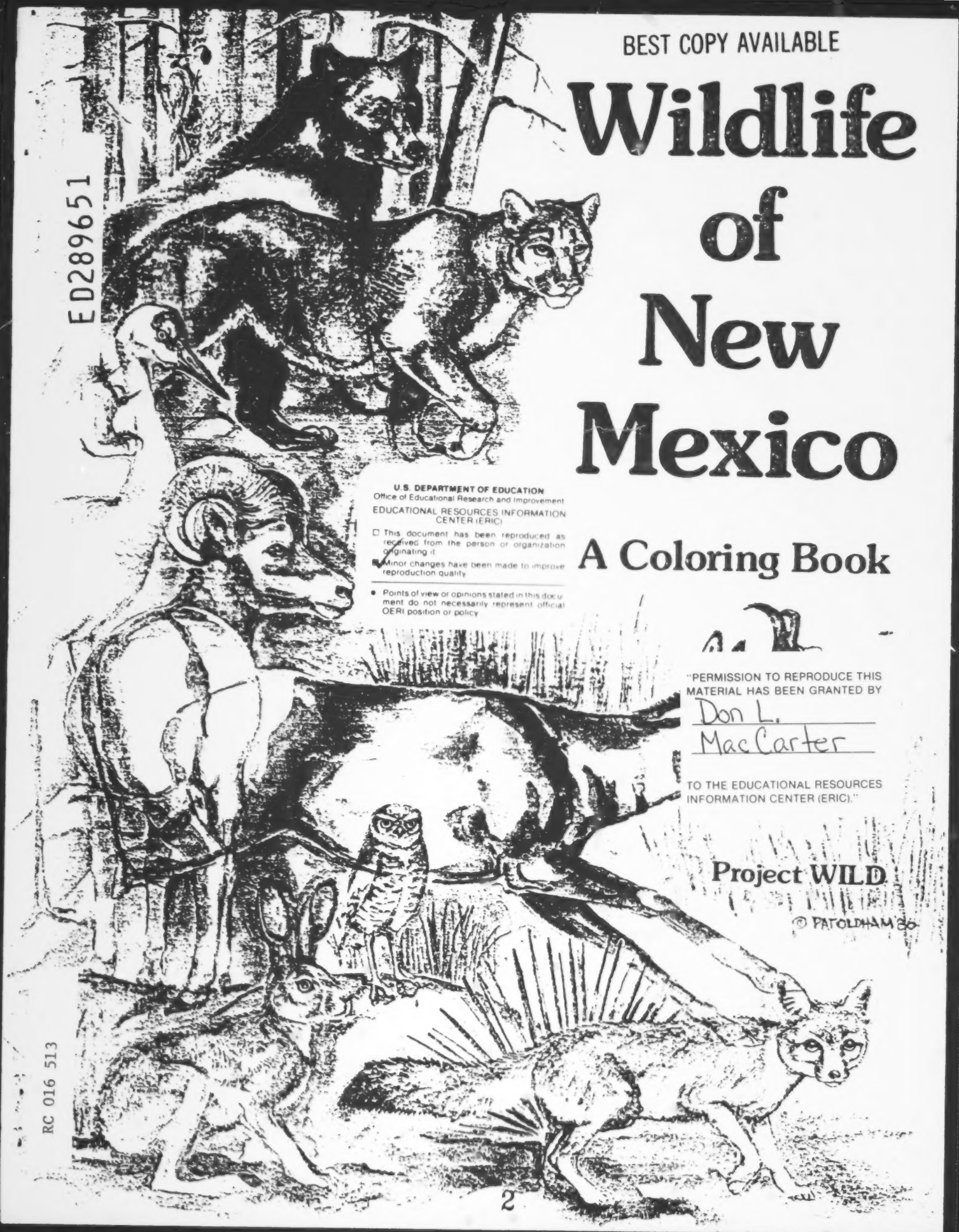
Wildlife of New Mexico

A Coloring Book



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Project WILD

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RC 016 513

WILDLIFE OF NEW MEXICO

A Coloring Book

By

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Wildlife Education Coordinator

Illustrated By

Pat Oldham

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WHY A COLORING BOOK?

Lest the present generation of New Mexico students grow up unaware of the rich wildlife heritage of this state, we offer a coloring book for all ages.

Among the contiguous 48 states, New Mexico is unsurpassed for the wide diversity of wildlife within its boundaries. Seeing wildlife in pictures, with location range maps, helps children (and adults) identify animals in the wild much easier than by just reading about them alone. To see is to know—enjoy the book!

RANGE MAPS

Range maps have been illustrated to show the range of each animal in the coloring book. The shaded area indicates their current range within the state.

WHAT IS PROJECT WILD?

Project WILD is an award-winning environmental and conservation education program of instructional workshops and supplementary curriculum materials for teachers of kindergarten through high school age youth which prepares students to be responsible decision makers.

PROJECT WILD IS . . .

- exciting instructional strategies.
- carefully developed teaching materials.
- diverse organizations working together.
- productive and professional workshops for teachers and other educators.
- powerful techniques for teaching basic skills.
- used and useful in science, social studies, language arts, math, art, physical education and music classrooms.
- exemplary 'science and society' instructional activities.
- effective methods for teaching problem-solving and decision-making.
- concept oriented.
- designed for diverse teaching and learning styles.
- extensively reviewed, tested and evaluated.
- balanced and fair, neither pro nor con on value-sensitive issues.
- sponsored and supported by state agencies responsible for wildlife and education, in association with major national and international organizations and agencies concerned with wildlife, education and the environment.
- praised by professional educators, wildlife biologists, parents and students.

RINGTAIL

The Ringtail is a member of the raccoon family. With its large ears and eyes, it moves by night and pounces on small mammals and birds for its food. It is easily identified by its beautiful ringed tail and likes to live in rocky or wooded areas.

WESTERN BLUEBIRD

The blue-and-rust Western Bluebirds used to be abundant all over the West, until the foreign Starling drove them from their nesting sites. Bluebirds are still around, in smaller numbers, nesting in birdhouses, hollows or old woodpecker holes. Western Bluebirds are beneficial since they eat so many insects.

VAGRANT SHREW

One of the tiniest of all mammals, Vagrant Shrews live in marshes and meadows. They are fierce little creatures that feed almost nonstop on insects, worms and other small animals.

PINON JAY

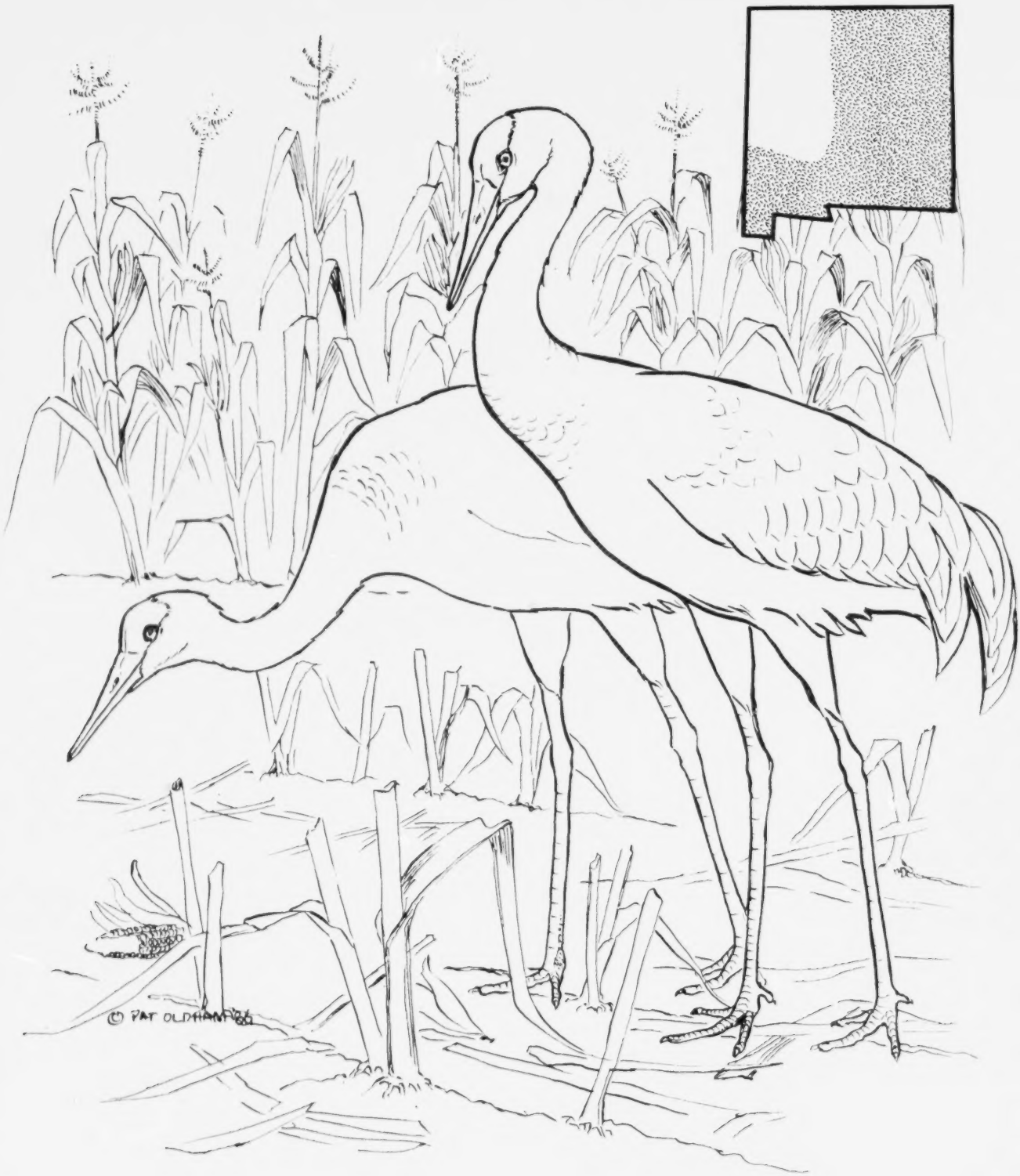
The Pinon Jay likes to live in large, noisy groups in forests of pinon pine, juniper and scrub oak. The favorite foods of this bird common to New Mexico are pinon pine nuts, juniper berries and insects.

PORCUPINE

Since they are plant eaters, Porcupines like to live in thick woods. They have large, chunky bodies with spiny quills on their rump and tail. They can't throw their quills, but they use them to good advantage for protection.

ABERT'S SQUIRREL

This long-eared squirrel lives in forests of ponderosa pine, pinon pine and juniper, since its favorite foods happen to be pine seeds and pinon nuts. Although it's active all winter, the Abert's Squirrel usually stays close to its nest during cold spells, except to retrieve buried seeds.



SANDHILL CRANE

These beautiful, tall birds like to gather along the Rio Grande in New Mexico during the winter. Sandhill Cranes have grayish-blue feathers and a seven-foot wingspan. They are very noisy birds that cackle, bow and bounce around during their courtship displays.

DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

The Desert Bighorn Sheep is an endangered species in New Mexico. They look a lot like Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, but they are a little smaller, and lighter in color. In 1978, New Mexico's Desert Bighorns were hard hit by disease and parasites. They are just now starting to make comeback.

JAVELINA

The Javelina looks like a small, furry pig. It lives in brushy deserts and rocky canyons. Javelina live in small herds and eat roots, fruits, leaves, insects and reptiles.

BLACK BEAR

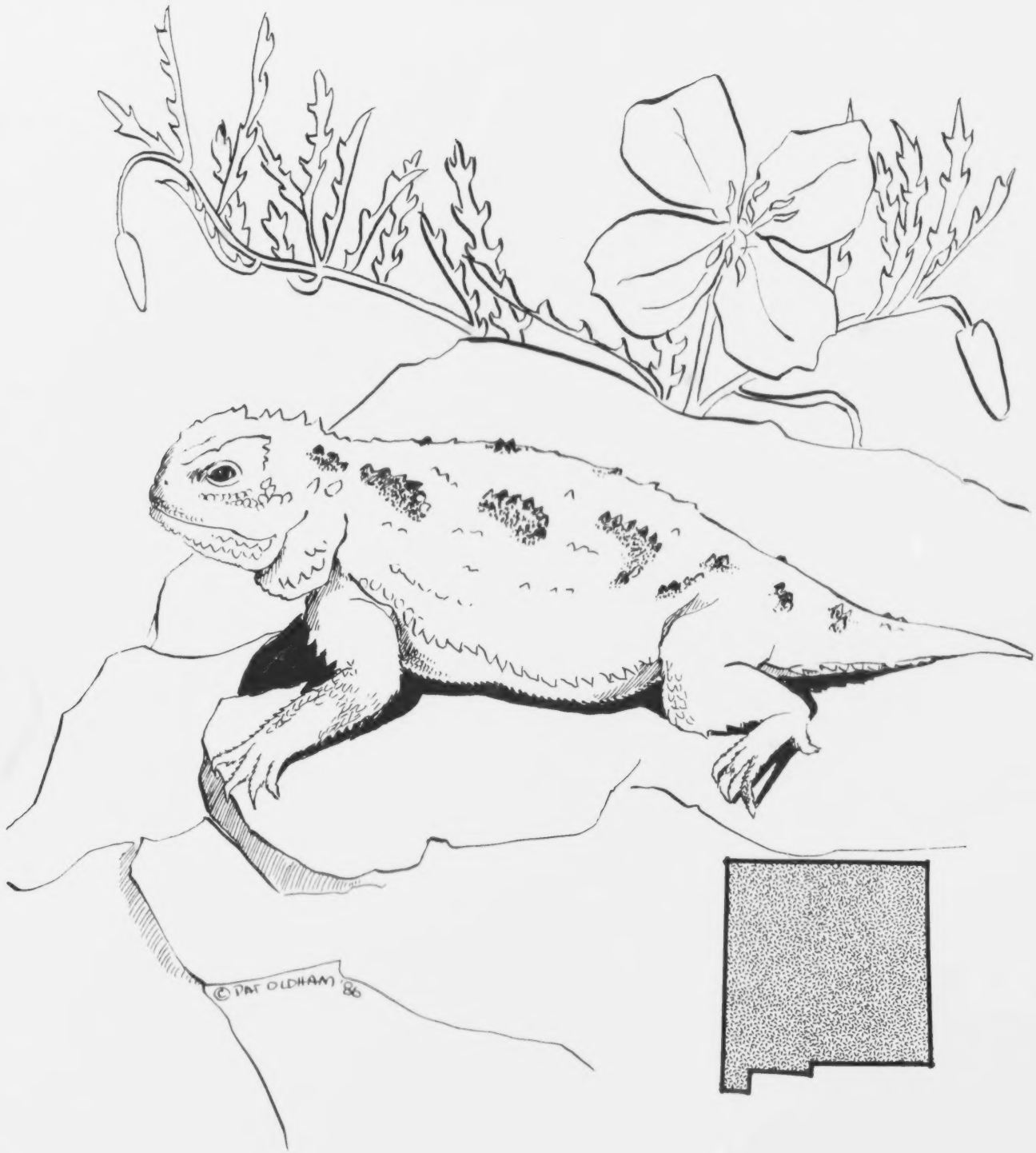
The Black Bear, New Mexico's state mammal, will eat just about anything, from berries and roots to fish and other animals. Bear cubs stay with their mothers about two years and can be either cinnamon, brown or black in color.

BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG

The Black-Tailed Prairie Dog lives in large colonies on the short-grass prairies. They build large mounds at the entrance to their burrows and like to sit erect at their 'doorways.' When on Prairie Dog gives an alarm bark, all of the other Prairie Dogs quickly disappear down their holes.

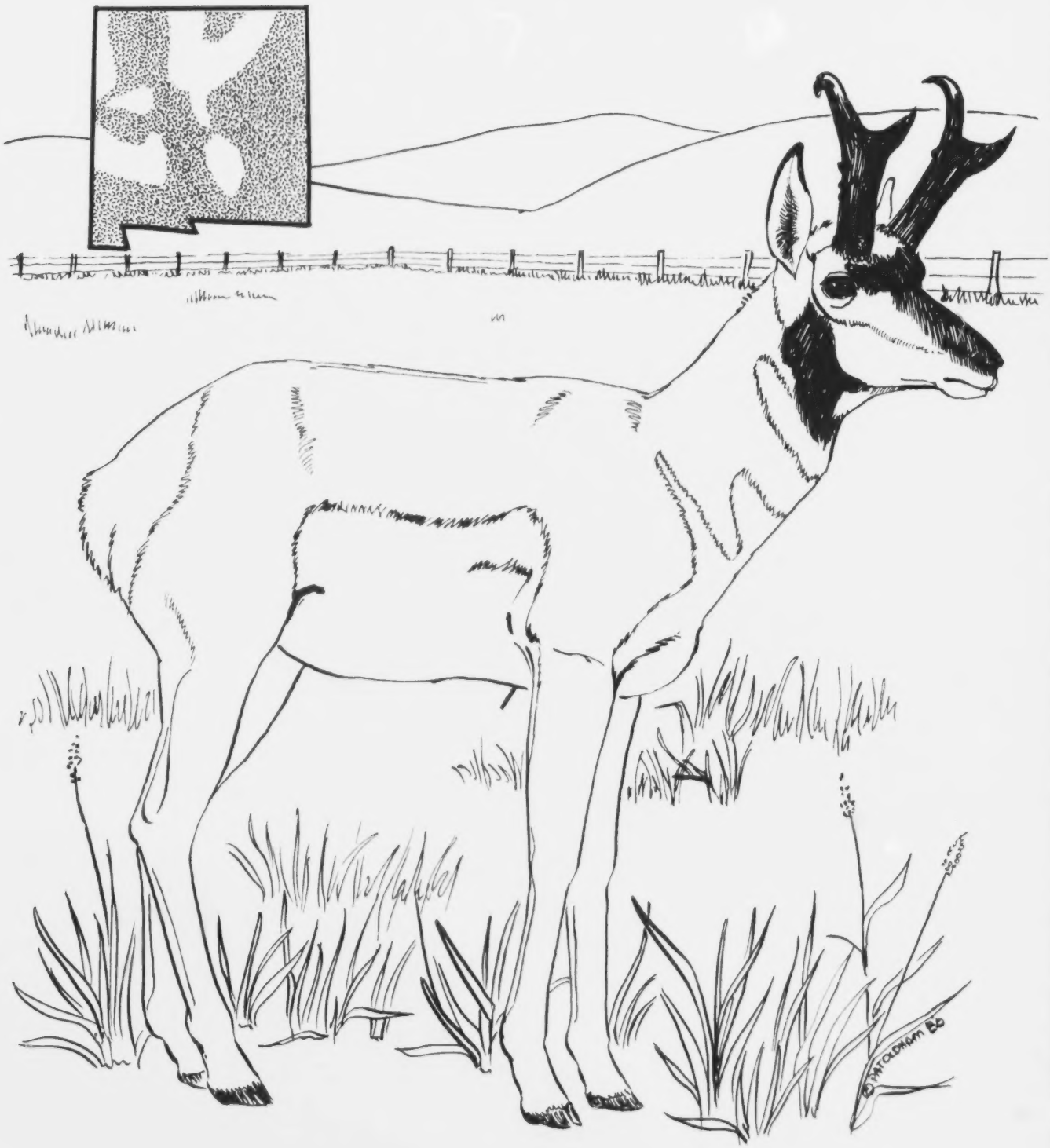
ROADRUNNER

The Roadrunner is the state bird of New Mexico. It lives in open country and is often seen running very fast across the road, since it seldom flies. It likes to eat snakes, lizards, insects, scorpions and tarantulas.



HORNED LIZARD

The Horned Lizard has lots of different ways to discourage predators. He can burrow into the sand to escape them. At other times, he will swell up his body, make threatening poses, or even expel streams of blood from his eyes.



PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

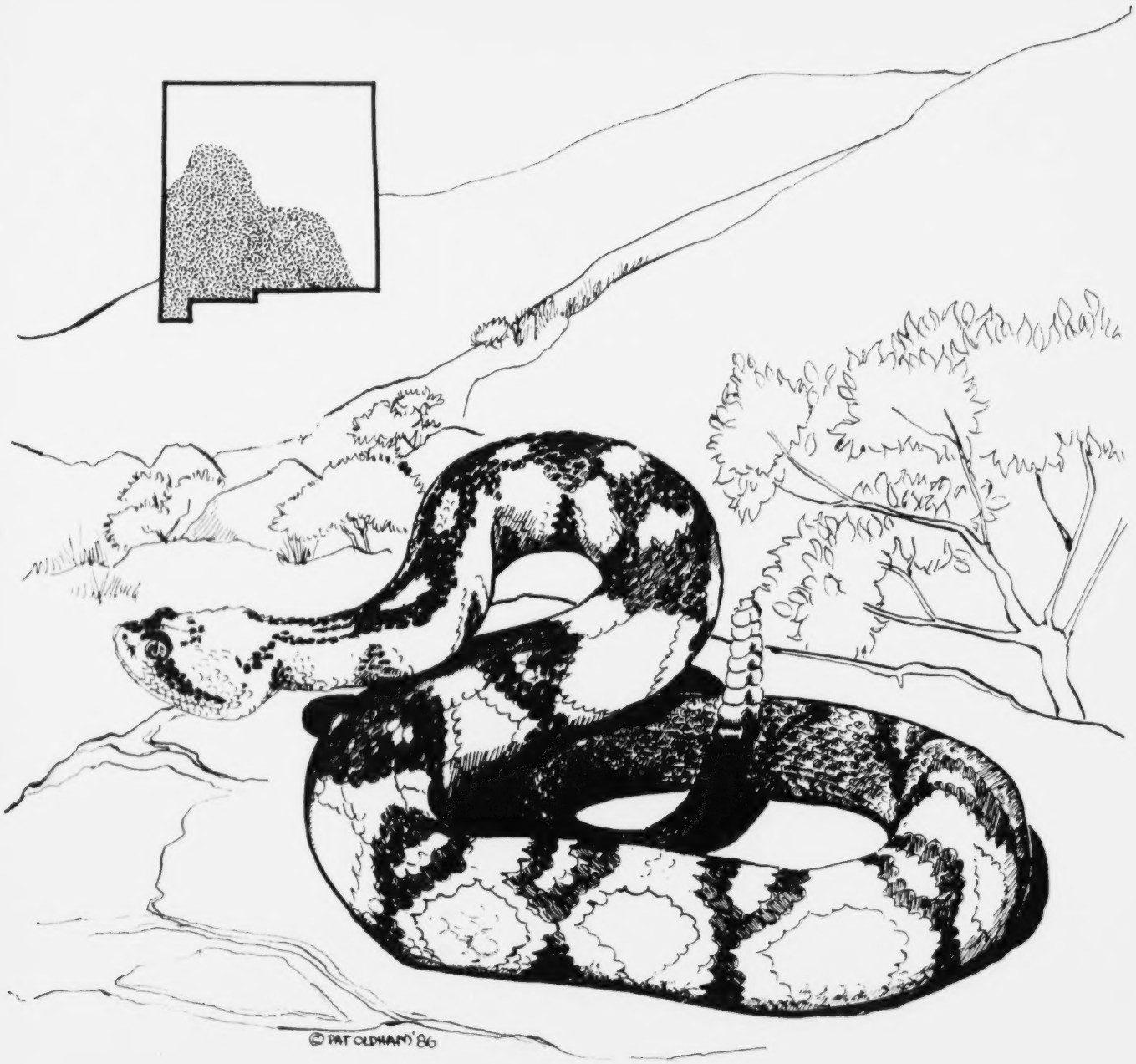
Both male and female Pronghorns have black, forked horns. They live in prairies and desert country and can run faster than any other animal in North America. Because it lives in open country, the Pronghorn relies on its excellent eyesight and running speed for safety.

COYOTE

Found all over New Mexico, the Coyote is a member of the 'dog family'. It likes to eat rabbits, mice, berries and a variety of other foods. At dawn and at twilight, you may hear the Coyotes giving their howls, barks and yelps in a chorus.

LITTLE BROWN BAT

An hour after sunset, Little Brown Bats come out of the night and feed upon insects they catch and eat while flying. Bats find both their food and their way around by using natural radar, sending out supersonic squeaks and hearing them bounce back from obstacles.

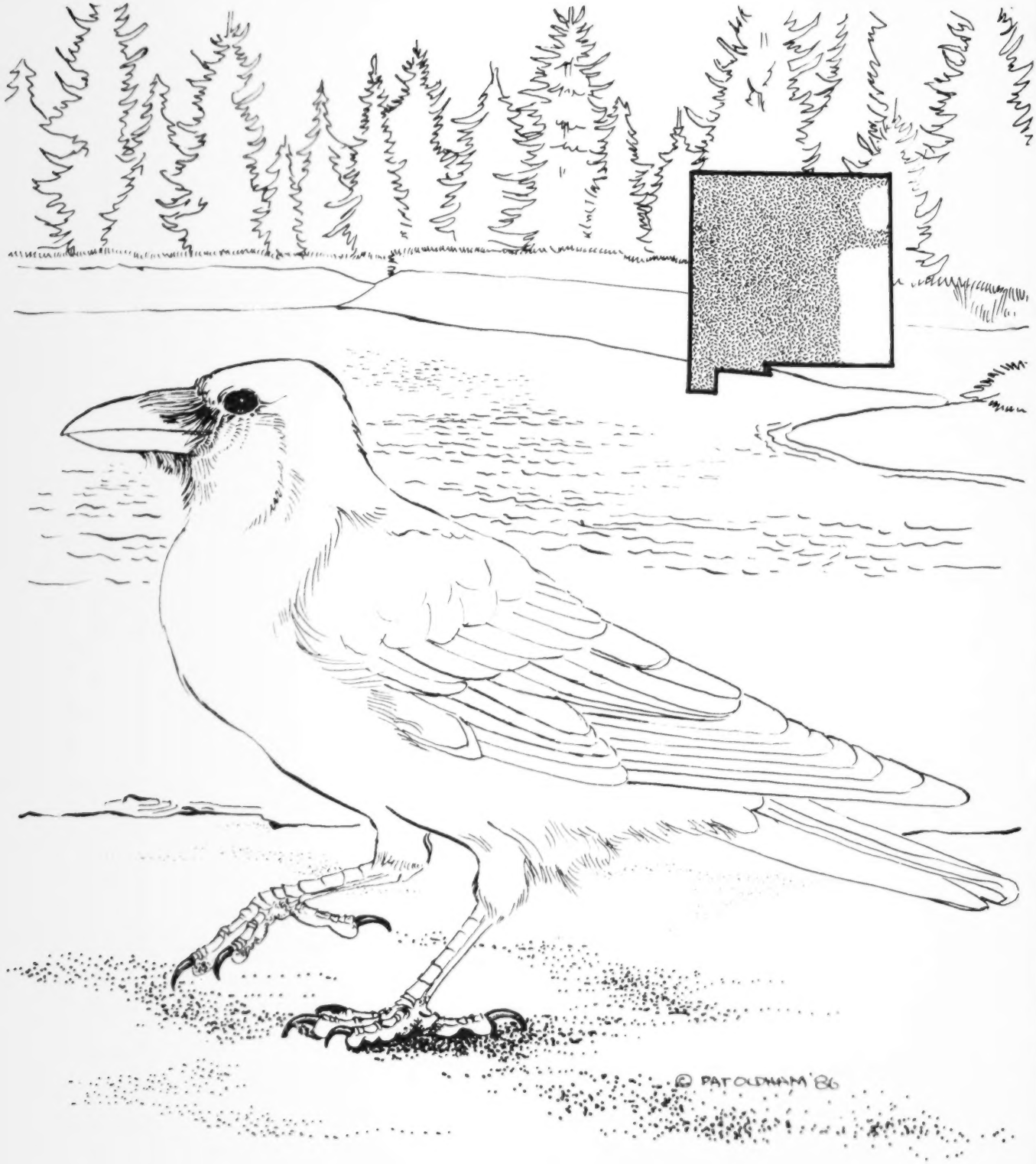


BLACK-TAILED RATTLESNAKE

This species of rattlesnake is especially active after a warm rain. It is a mountain snake that likes to live among rock slides, cliffs or rocky outcroppings. Even though it's a rattlesnake, this black-tailed variety is not very aggressive. It moves about by night and day, eating mice and other small mammals.

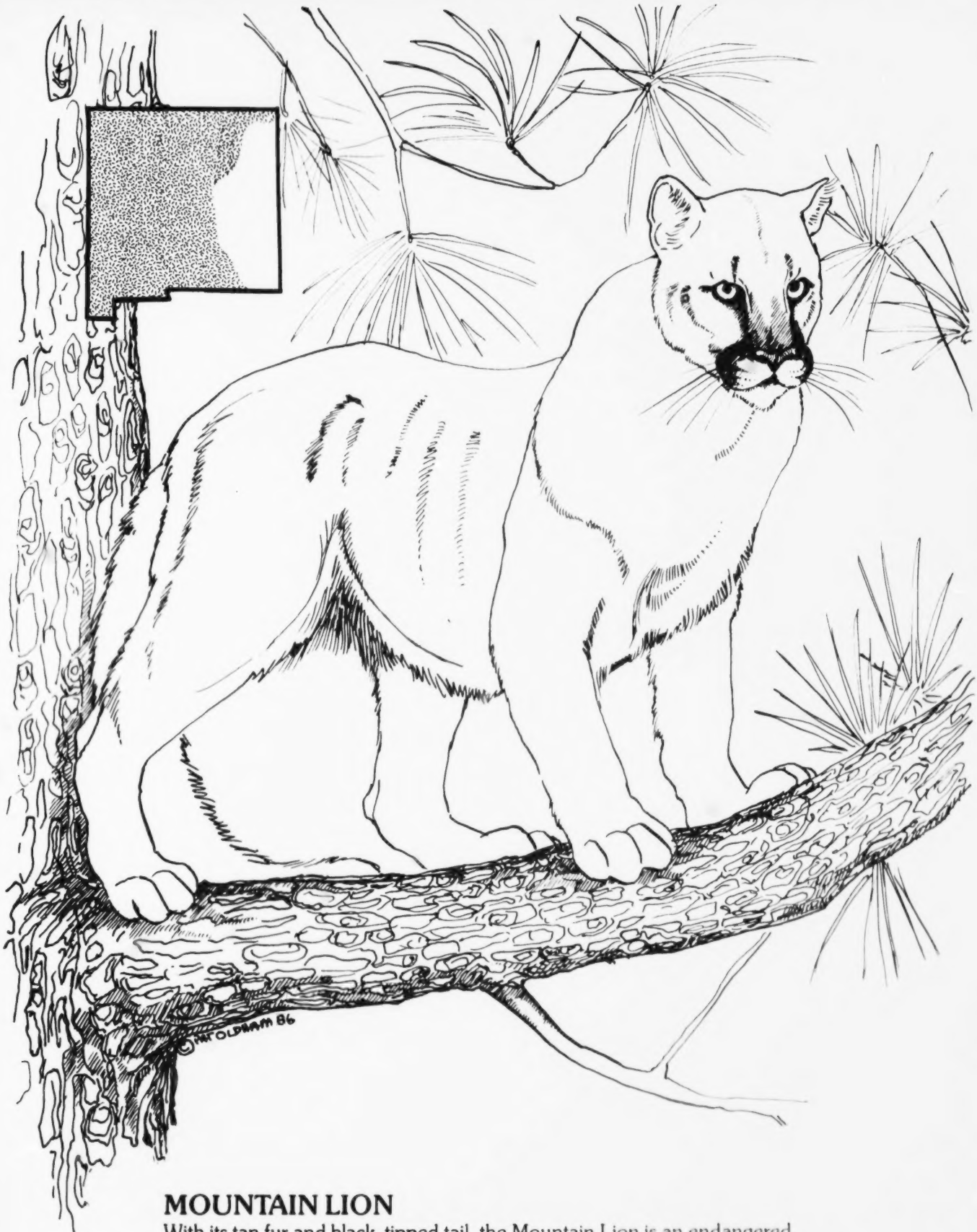
ELK

The Elk is a large member of the deer family that lives in high forests or semi-open woodlands. Elk feed on grasses and leaves, while deer like to eat twigs. Male elk (bulls) have antlers which sometimes grow to five feet in length. In the Fall in the high country, you may hear the whistling 'bugle' of the Elk during courtship.



COMMON RAVEN

The Raven looks like a big crow with a rounded tail and is often confused with the crow. Ravens are useful scavengers and help keep the countryside clean of carcasses. They have two types of calls, a loud cawing and a funny gargle.

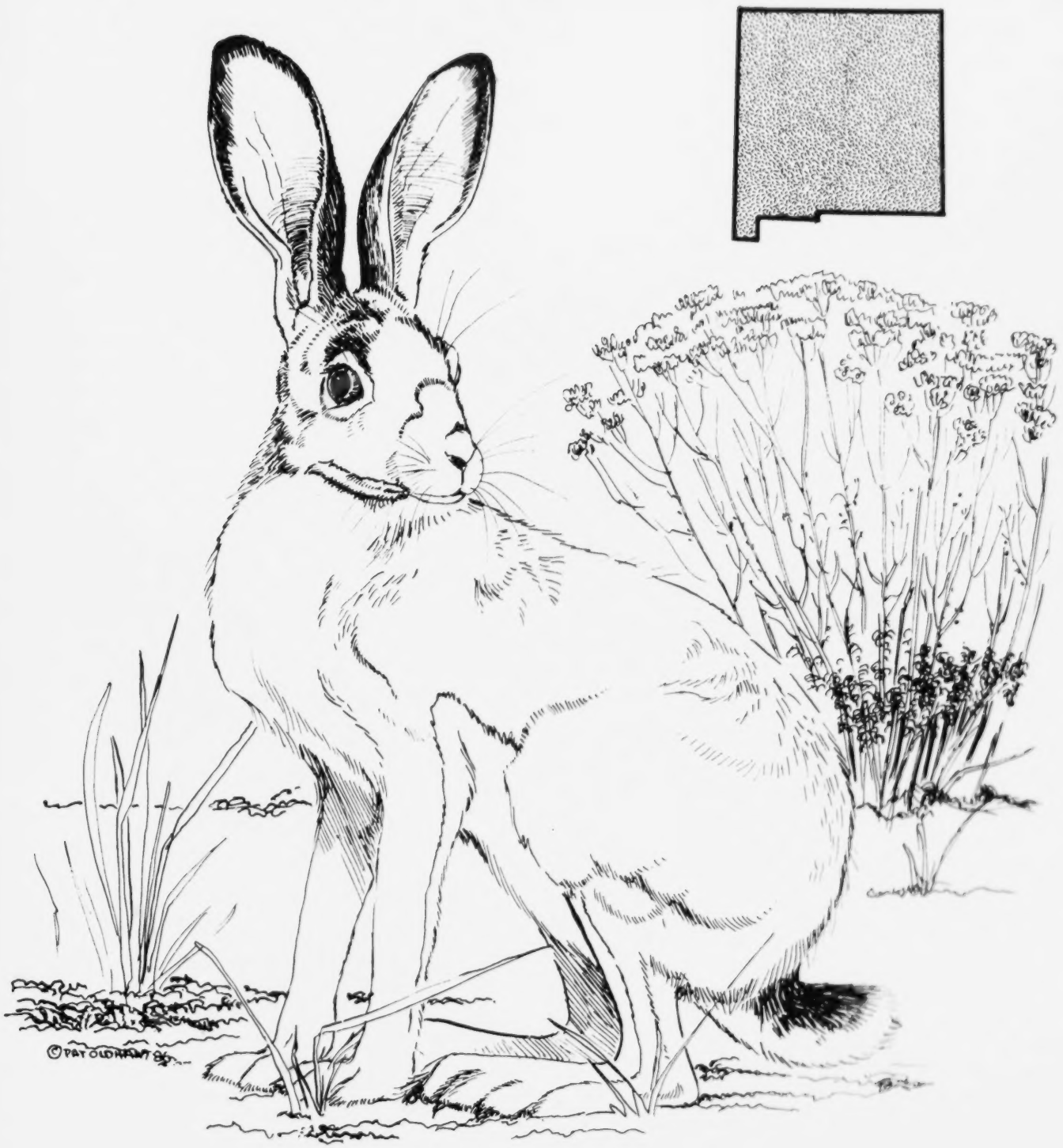


MOUNTAIN LION

With its tan fur and black-tipped tail, the Mountain Lion is an endangered species in a few states. In New Mexico, the Mountain Lion lives in forests, rocky canyons and deserts. They move around mostly at night and feed primarily on deer and other large mammals.

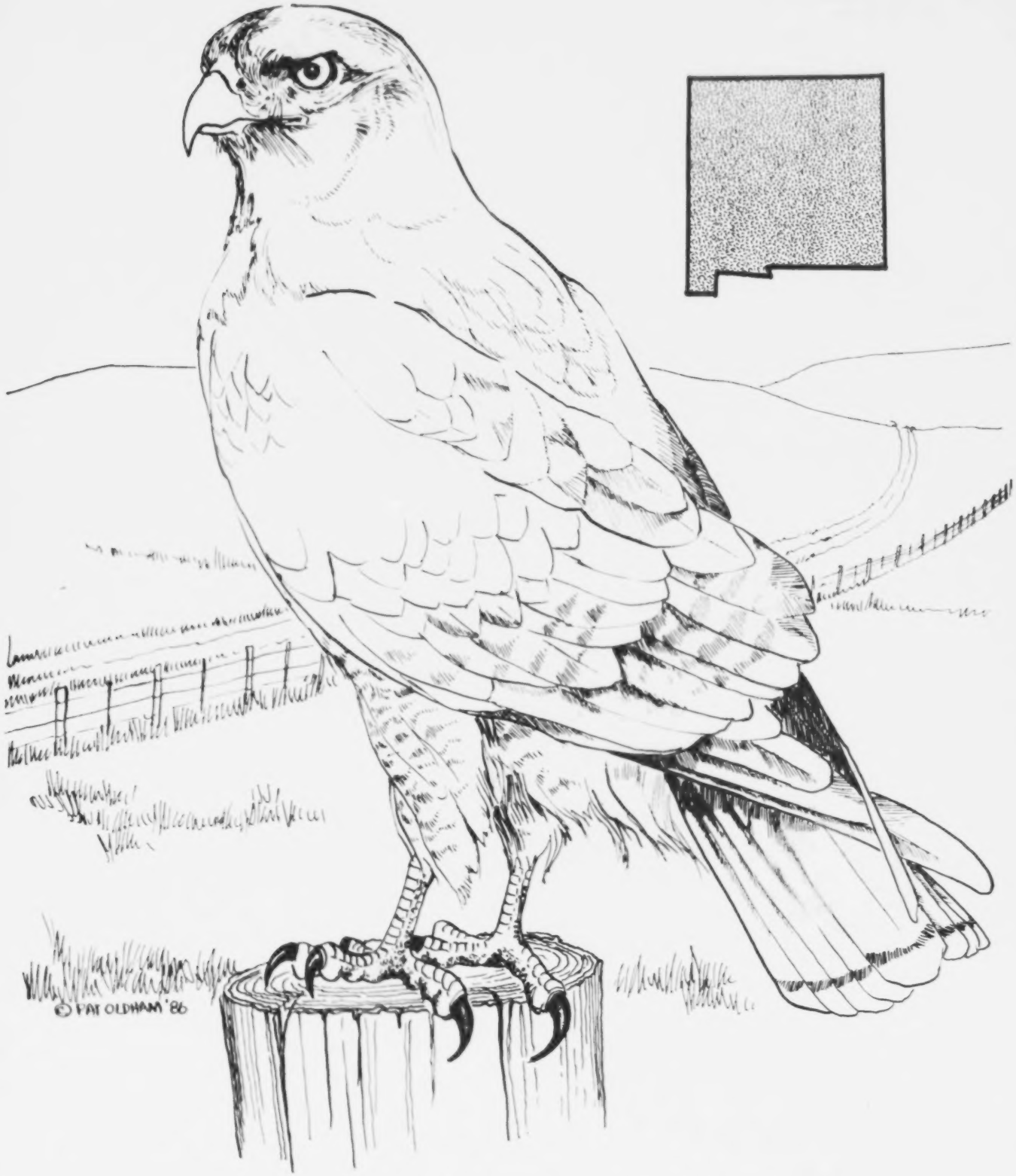
BURROWING OWL

These little owls live underground in burrows or old Prairie Dog holes. They are known by their long, bare legs, short tail and bobbing brown-and-white body. Burrowing Owls are active by day as well as by night.



BLACK-TAILED JACK RABBIT

This rabbit isn't really a rabbit at all, but a hare. Its ears are very long, and its tail is tipped with black. The Black-Tailed Jack Rabbit can jump up to 25 feet and can run 45 miles per hour.



RED-TAILED HAWK

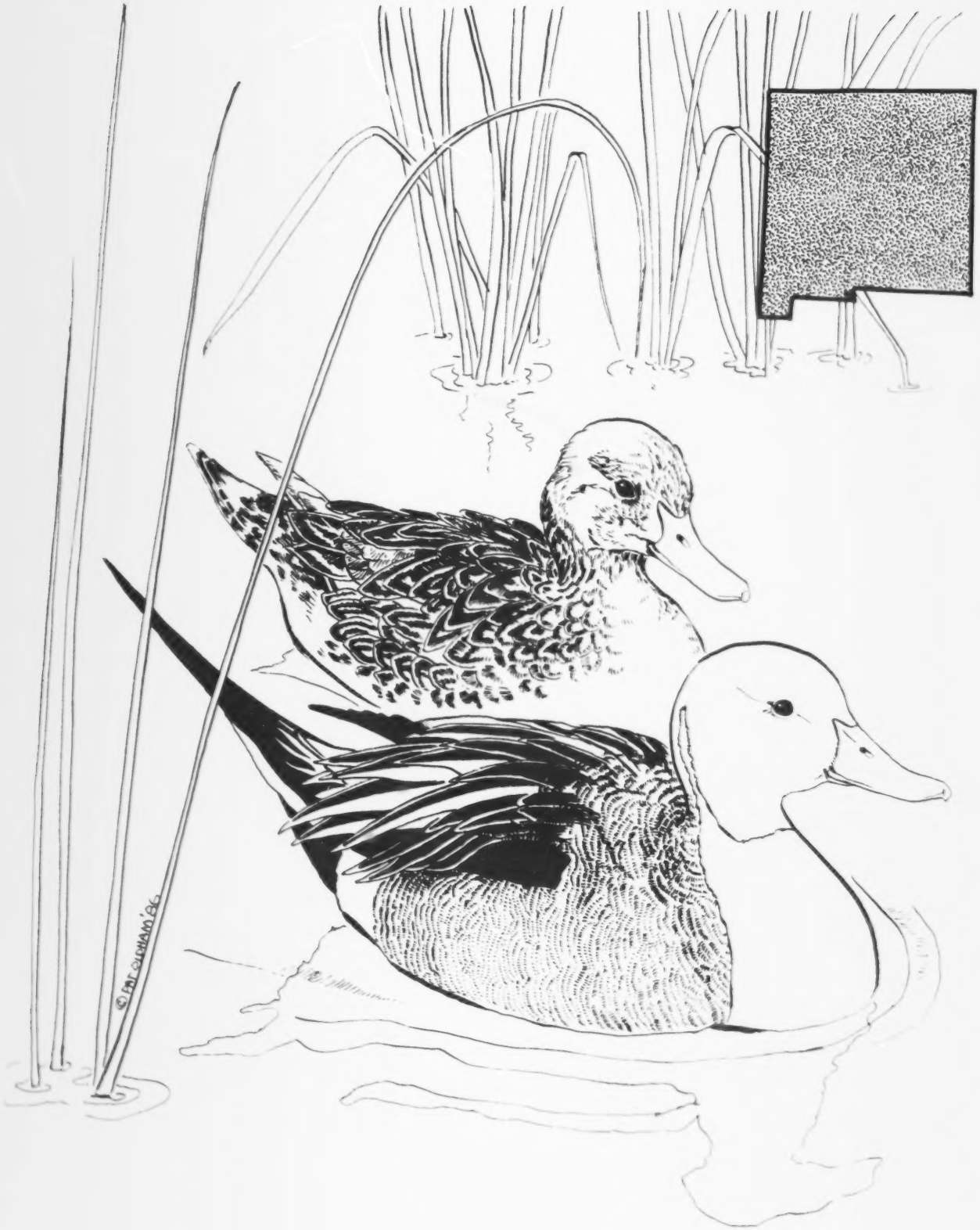
With its rust-colored tail, this large hawk is commonly seen along roads, perching on telephone poles and fence posts. It feeds mainly on mice, rabbits, insects and snakes. The Red Tail nests in trees or cliffs, and courts its mate by soaring and making high-pitched cries.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK

You may see a Meadowlark, with his black V on yellow breast, perching on a fence post or wire. Meadowlarks love the open country and nest deep within waving grasses. They have one of the loveliest bird songs heard in the West.

COLLARED LIZARD

This handsome lizard has double dark 'collars' around its neck. It lives among desert rocks and often runs with front legs off the ground and tail in the air. It looks a little like a miniature dinosaur with its large, broad head and wide mouth.



PINTAIL DUCK

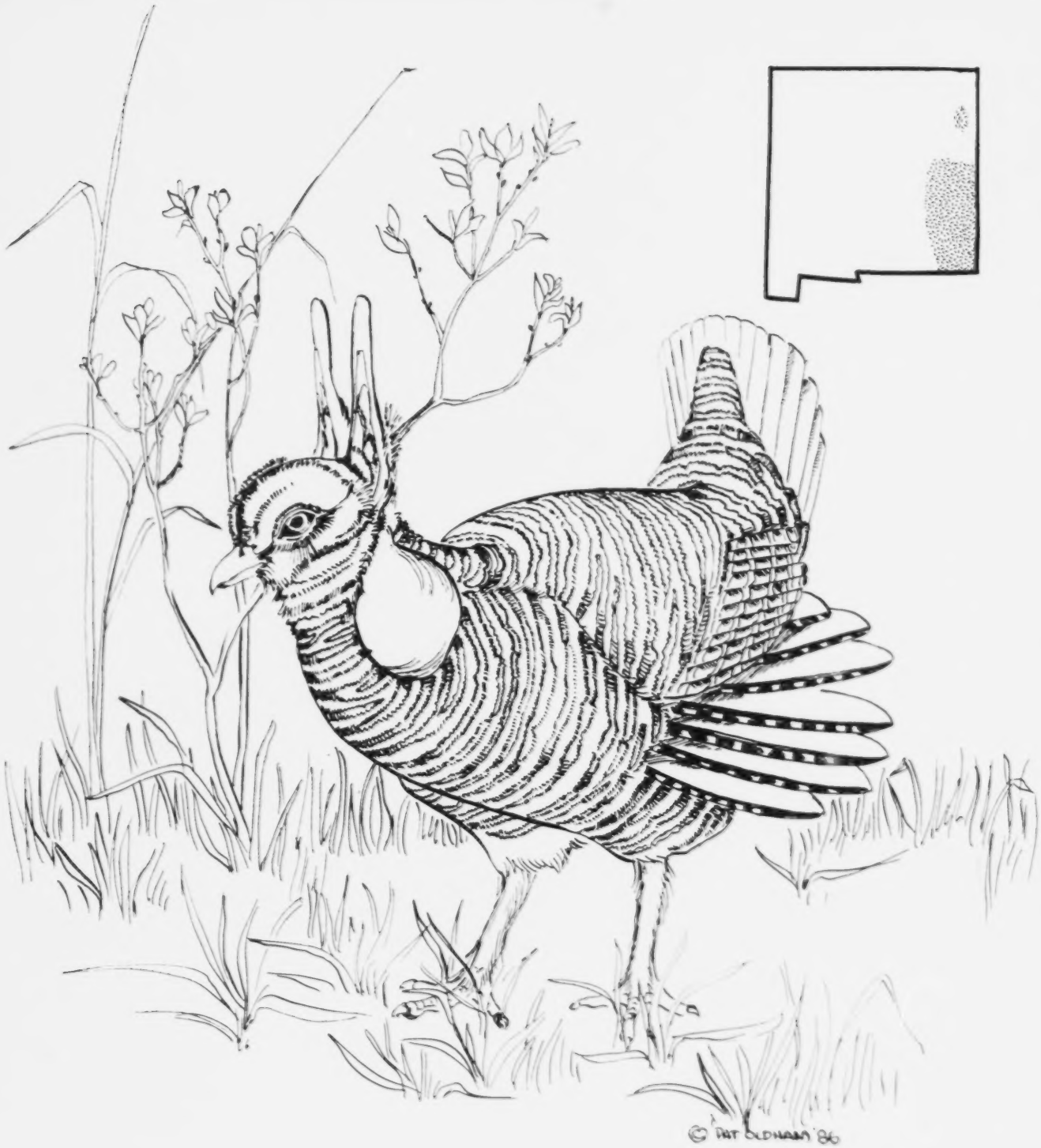
The brown-headed Pintail is the only puddle duck in America with a long, pointed tail. Pintails spend the spring and summer in the far North and come to New Mexico and the South to spend the Winter.

SPOTTED SKUNK

This New Mexico skunk keeps its enemies away by doing a 'handstand' on its front paws and spraying intruders with bad-smelling musk. The Spotted Skunk is active only at night, feeding on insects and mice in the brushy farmland country where it lives.

WILD TURKEY

Three different kinds of Wild Turkeys live in New Mexico in open woodland country. The male turkeys perform an elaborate display to attract female turkeys during courtship. Wild Turkeys are very intelligent birds, wary and good at hiding.



LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN

With its brilliant red air sacs, the Prairie Chicken makes a booming sound that can be heard up to two miles away. The male makes these sounds to mark out his territory on the prairie, attract females and to keep other males away.

SWIFT AND KIT FOXES

These small, large-eared foxes move by night. The Kit Fox has slightly bigger ears and lives in the Western part of the state. The Swift Fox generally lives in the Eastern part, but the two foxes are almost identical.

AUTHOR'S PROFILE

Don MacCarter has worked with students in various capacities for the last two decades. With B.S. degree in Wildlife Biology and M.S. degree in Wildlife Management, Don taught Life Science, Wildlife Biology, Sportsmen's Biology, Bacteriology and Photography during his sixteen year teaching career in Lakeville, Minnesota. During the summer between school terms, Don carried out biological fieldwork on various projects in the northern Rocky Mountains. Since 1983, he has served as Environmental Education Coordinator and Project WILD Director for the State of New Mexico, through the Department of Game and Fish.

ILLUSTRATOR'S PROFILE

Freelance artist Pat Oldham has made her home in Albuquerque for the past 16 years. The completion of her BFA degree in Design from the University of Kansas culminated fourteen years of formal Art training. Animals have always been her favorite subjects and frequent hunting and fishing trips in her native Colorado provided regular contact with wildlife.

She has shown her artwork in the Kansas Designer Craftsman and the New Mexico Designer Craftsman shows, and has a picture in the children's permanent collection of the Colorado Springs Fine Art Center. She is a member of Wildlife Rescue Incorporated of New Mexico and the National Wildlife Federation.